

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-8, 10-18 and 20-22 are pending. Claims 9 and 19 are cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 1-3, 11 and 12 are amended. Claims 1, 11 and 21 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Reasons for Entry of Amendments

At the outset, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered into the Official File in view of the fact that the amendments to the claims automatically place the application in condition for allowance.

In the alternative, if the Examiner does not agree that this application is in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered for the purpose of appeal. This Amendment reduces the issues on appeal by canceling allowable claim 9 and 19 and incorporating the limitations thereof into independent claims 1 and 11, respectively. This Amendment was not presented at an earlier date in view of the fact that the Examiner has just now presented new grounds for rejection in this Final Office Action.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner states that claim 21 is allowed, and that claims 9 and 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the base and any intervening claims.

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in this application. In response, independent claims 1 and 11 are amended herein to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 9 and 19, respectively. The Applicants respectfully submit that the intervening claims 7, 8 and 17, 18 are not incorporated into claims 1 and 11, and as argued below, the subject matter of claims 7, 8 and 17, 18 is not necessary for claims 1 and 11 to be in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 11, as amended herein, are in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a)

Claims 1, 3, 11, 13, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP 62-11294;

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 10-12, 14-16, 20 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 62-11294 in view of Tsuchida (U.S. 5,794,330); and

Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-13, 15-18, 20, and 22 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 62-11294.

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Amendments to Independent Claims 1 and 11

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, independent claim 1 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a lubricating bearing structure, including *inter alia*

the cam holder includes a nose portion which projects integrally from the cam holder towards a valve stem, the nose portion being an oil feed path for feeding a lubricant to an upper end of a valve, wherein a rear end of the nose portion includes a bent part bending toward a front or a back of the cam holder.

In addition, independent claim 11 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a lubricating bearing structure, including *inter alia*

an oil feed path for feeding a lubricant to an upper end of a valve stem formed on an inclined upper surface of a rearwardly projecting extension of the cam holder, a distal end of the rearwardly projecting extension having a bent part bending toward a front or a back of the cam holder.

By contrast, as can be seen in JP 62-11294 FIGS. 3 and 4, this document merely discloses a rearward end of oil feeding guide 42 extending in a direction parallel to the cam holder 29. Certainly, JP 62-11294 fails to suggest a rear end of the nose portion (rearwardly projecting extension) having a bent part bending toward a front or a back of the cam holder, as set forth in independent claims 1 and 11 of the present invention.

In the rejection of claims 1 and 11 under 35 U.S.C, 103(a), Tsuchida was combined with JP 62-11294. However, since Tsuchida merely discloses “the oil flow circuit into the cam holder”, Tsuchida cannot make up for the deficiencies of JP 62-11294 to reject independent claims 1 and 11, as amended herein.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in each of independent claims 1 and 11 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including JP 62-11294 and Tsuchida, at least for the reasons explained above.

Therefore, independent claims 1 and 11 are in condition for allowance.

As mentioned above, independent claim 21 is allowed.

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto. All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

Application No. 10/801,557
Amendment dated September 6, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 6, 2005

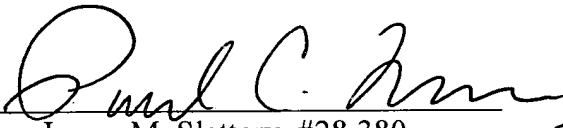
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If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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